



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAGISTRATE JUDGE DENIES BOND TO SAN ANTONIO MAN CHARGED WITH
FRAUD AND SHIELDING ILLEGAL ALIENS FROM DETECTION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Midland this afternoon, denied bond to a San Antonio man charged with profiting from a scheme to steal over \$100,000 from individuals who were in this country illegally.

Lionando "Larry" Polanco, age 51, is charged with one count of shielding illegal aliens from detection for financial gain and one count of immigration document fraud. Upon conviction, Polanco faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count. No trial date has been scheduled.

According to court records, from January 2008 until November 21, 2008, Polanco knowingly shielded numerous illegal aliens residing in the Odessa area from detection and provided or promised to provide each of them with a fraudulent H2B work permit, usually in exchange for \$4,000.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

This case was investigated by fraud officers with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Austin M. Berry is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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